

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. SUMMARY: ALEXANDER MAY, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-SWISS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS CONFIRMED TO THE MISSION HIS DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON. HE PROPOSES SEPTEMBER 14-16 WITH THE HOPE OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY HAIG, AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. AMB. CINCPATRICK. [WORDS ILLEG]

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION HA-06

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 AIO-07 INN-10 ENR-12 SS-15 OIC-02
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PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S AND
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICES
USUN FOR AMO. KIRKPATRICK
SONN FOR AMO. BURNS

C.O. 12045: M/A
TAGS: SHUM, SREP, ZAID, POSS, OUP, ICRC
SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY ICRC PRESIDENT MAY

1. SUMMARY: ALEXANDRE MAY, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-SWISS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS CONFIRMED TO THE MISSION HIS DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON. HE PROPOSES SEPTEMBER 10-16 WITH THE HOPE OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE, AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE STATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DEPARTMENT. AND. CIRCUMSTANCES, with list of names in margin

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-- AFGHANISTAN: THE SOVIETS AND THE AFGHAN REGIME BOTH HAVE REBUFFED THE ICRC'S OFFERS TO RENDER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN. UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS THE ICRC HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING PRISONERS OF WAR AND OTHER VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT. THE ICRC IS CURRENTLY MAKING RENEWED

EFFORTS TO APPROACH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON THIS SUBJECT, USING THE OPENING OF SOVIET INTEREST IN SOVIET PRISONERS OF WAR HELD BY THE AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

-- LEBANON: THE ICRC IS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN PROVIDING MEDICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF FIGHTING AND AIR ATTACKS IN LEBANON. IF POSSIBLE, PRESIDENT HAY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY AMB. PHILIP HABIB TO DISCUSS THE LEBANON SITUATION.

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JULY 1, ENCOURAGED MAY TO MEET WITH THE NEW REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE SENATE AND WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADERS IN THE HOUSE. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS MISSION ENDORSES A VISIT BY MAY AND HOPES A SUITABLE SCHEDULE CAN BE WORKED OUT FOR SEPTEMBER 14-16. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A STRONG CASE TO BE MADE FOR HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION OF MAY AS A WAY TO DRAMATIZE THE KIND OF SKILLFUL, VOLUNTARY, QUIET APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS WHICH THE ICRC REPRESENTS. WE CAN THINK OF NO ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS A BETTER GLOBAL IMAGE AND CREDIBILITY, AND WHICH HAS FUNCTIONED WITH AS MUCH CONSISTENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS AS HAS THE ICRC.

3. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS THAT COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT MAY:

-- FUNDING FOR ICRC: SEPTELS PROVIDE TEXTS OF LETTERS FROM MAY TO THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND SECRETARY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE USG'S RECENT CONTRIBUTION OF OVER \$4 MILLION TO ICRC PROGRAMS. WE HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL \$1 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FOR ICRC PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. PRESIDENT MAY WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THESE CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECTLY TO US LEADERS.

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-- LEBANON: THE ICRC IS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN PROVIDING MEDICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF FIREFIGHTING AND AIR ATTACKS IN LEBANON. IF POSSIBLE, PRESIDENT MAY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY AND PHILIP MARIO TO DISCUSS THE LEBANON SITUATION.

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TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

-- KAMPUCHEA: THE ICRC PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE WITH UNICEF IN INITIATING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INSIDE KAMPUCHEA AND ON THE THAI BORDER. THE ICRC IS CONTINUING TO BE THE LEAD AGENCY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE BORDER BUT NEEDS TO BE CONVINCED TO CONTINUE THIS ROLE AFTER DECEMBER 1981. (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THE ICRC, UNICEF, AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE KHMER RELIEF EFFORT HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE 1981 NOBEL PRIZE. THE ICRC HAS WON OR SHARED THE NOBEL PRICE FOUR TIMES IN THE PAST.)

-- NORTHERN IRELAND: ICRC DELEGATES AND AN ICRC DOCTOR HAVE JUST COMPLETED AN INITIAL SERIES OF VISITS TO IRA PRISONERS INCLUDING THE HUNGER-STRIKERS. THE VISITS CAME IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING ICRC INITIATIVE, NOW AGREED TO BY THE US GOVERNMENT. THE ICRC EXPECTS TO MAKE FURTHER VISITS IN THE FUTURE, AND DESPITE INITIAL REJECTION BY IRA SPOKESMEN, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH VISITS, BY IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL STATUS OF "PRISONERS AS A RESULT OF THE EVENTS," COULD LEAD TO AN AMELIORATION OF THE PROBLEM.

-- US HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN: THE ICRC WAS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ABLE TO VISIT AND MEET

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-- NORTHERN IRELAND: ICRC DELEGATES AND AN ICRC DOCTOR HAVE JUST COMPLETED AN INITIAL SERIES OF VISITS TO IRA PRISONERS INCLUDING THE MURDER-SUSPECTS. THE VISITS CAME IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING ICRC INITIATIVE, NOW AGREED TO BY THE UK GOVERNMENT. THE ICRC EXPECTS TO MAKE FURTHER VISITS IN THE FUTURE, AND DESPITE INITIAL REJECTION OF IRA OFFERS, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH VISITS, BY IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL STATUS OF "PRISONERS AS A RESULT OF THE EVENTS," COULD LEAD TO AN AMELIORATION OF THE PROBLEM.

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PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

WITH ALL THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES WHILE THEY WERE HELD CAPTIVE IN THE US EMBASSY IN TEHRAN. AS IS CUSTOMARY FOR SUCH ICRC MISSIONS, IT WAS NOT WIDELY PUBLICIZED BY THE ICRC. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THIS ICRC ACTION.

-- IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT: PRESIDENT HAY RECENTLY COMPLETED VISITS TO TEHRAN AND BAGHDAD. ICRC DELEGATES ARE ACTIVE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT. HAVE VISITED POSTS AND HAVE ASSISTED IN [ILLEG] EFFORTS.

-- AFRICA: THE [WORDS ILLEG].

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ACTION MA-06

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY BOMBAY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EFFORTS.

-- AFRICA: THE ICRC CONTINUES TO DO MUCH FOR THE
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FIVE YEARS AS ICRC PRESIDENT AND HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED FOR A FURTHER FIVE YEARS. HIS LAST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS IN 1977, WHEN HE MET WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HIS PREDECESSOR, MARCEL NAVILLE, MET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1971. AS ICRC PRESIDENT HAY HAS MET WITH LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING GISCARD C'ESTAING (FRANCE), HELMUT SCHMIDT (FRG), PRESIDENT PERTINI (ITALY), LORD CARRINGTON AND QUEEN ELIZABETH (UK), KING KHALED (SAUDI ARABIA), KING HASSAN II (MOROCCO), PRESIDENT BOUFEDLANI (ALGERIA), PRESIDENT SUHARTO (INDONESIA, FIDEL CASTRO (CUBA).

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PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN PLACES WHERE UN AGENCIES FOR POLITICAL REASONS ARE NOT ABLE TO FUNCTION. THE LARGEST ICRC AID PROGRAM IN AFRICA IS IN ANGOLA, WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN UGANDA, ZAIRE, AND CHAD. IN SUCH CASES THE ICRC'S NON-POLITICAL ALL-SWISS CHARACTER ENABLES IT TO INTERVENE WHERE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE DENIED ACCESS.

-- ICRC VISITS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES: THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR EXPANSION OF ICRC ACTIVITY IN RECENT YEARS. THE ICRC VISITED OVER 40,000 POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PAST YEAR IN 27 COUNTRIES, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AS ITS TRADITIONAL VISITS TO PRISONERS OF WAR: THAT IS, VISITS TO ALL PRISONERS, WITHOUT WITNESSES (TO PERMIT PRIVATE CONVERSATION), WITH REPORTS ON CONDITIONS GOING TO THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES.

4. A VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD SERVE AS AN ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS' ONE-HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY, AND WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS NOVEMBER 11-16 IN AMILA. THIS CONFERENCE MEETS EVERY FOUR YEARS AND IS THE PARENT BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MOVEMENT.

5. MAY IS THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CENTRAL BANK, IN WHICH CAPACITY HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH ARTHUR BURNS AND PAUL VOLCKER. HE HAS COMPLETED

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FIVE YEARS AS ICRC PRESIDENT AND HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED FOR A FURTHER FIVE YEARS. HIS LAST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS IN 1977, WHEN HE MET WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HIS PREDECESSOR, MARCEL NAVILLE, MET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1971. AS ICRC PRESIDENT MAY HAS MET WITH LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING GISCARD D'ESTAING (FRANCE), NELSON MANDELA (S.A.), PRESIDENT PERTINI (ITALY), LORD CARRINGTON AND QUEEN ELIZABETH (UK), KING ENKEL (CAMBODIA), KING MASSAN II (CAMBODIA), PRESIDENT DOMESTIENNE (CAMBODIA), PRESIDENT SUMARTO (INDONESIA), FIDEL CASTRO (CUBA).

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THE HEADS OF STATE OF ARGENTINA, CHILE, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA, AND POPE JOHN PAUL II.

6. IN TERMS OF TIMING, PRESIDENT MAY SUGGESTED THE SEPTEMBER 14-16 DATES IN DISCUSSION WITH AMB. KIRKPATRICK, WHO THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE OPPORTUNE FOR MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. MAY COULD ADJUST HIS SCHEDULE FOR A VISIT ONE OR TWO WEEKS LATER, BUT THEREAFTER HAS A FULL SCHEDULE UP TO THE MANILA CONFERENCE. HELMAN

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